

# Safe Burning Tips for Landowners

## Before You Burn

- Always check the weather. Avoid outdoor burning when humidity is below 35%, if wind is blowing more than 5 mph, and when vegetation is very dry.
- Report your burn to the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) Dispatch Center at 1-800-830-8015, or your local fire department. Stay updated on wildfire danger, provided by the AFC, and current Burn Bans, declared by County Judges at [www.arkfireinfo.org](http://www.arkfireinfo.org).
- A prescribed burn always has a land management goal. No matter how small, develop a plan for your burn before you begin. For large prescribed burns, consider working with a wildland fire professional.
- Dig down to mineral soil in a complete circle around your fire site to ensure that flames do not spread outside of an intended area. Watch for embers flying over your fireline.

## Always Consider Your Neighbors

- Remember that the use of prescribed fire in forests, grassland, and agricultural areas creates smoke.
- Avoid days when the wind direction may create large amounts of smoke across roadways.
- Work together with others burning in your area to avoid burning on the same day.
- Avoid burning when large groups may be outside, including weekends and during outdoor events.

## While You Burn

- Never leave a fire unattended; always plan to stay with your burn throughout the duration of live flames. Finally, never leave until all flames have been suppressed inside stumps and snags (dead trees).
- Have a water source located nearby.
- Burn in an area located away from homes, vehicles, decks, nearby trees and overhanging branches, leaf litter, trash, and other flammable vegetation or materials that you do not intend to burn.
- Keep your flames short and low to the ground. Check for shifts in wind direction and intensity.

## During High Wildfire Danger, Remember

- Wildfire Danger is usually highest during Arkansas's two primary wildfire seasons: February-April and August-October.
- Call the AFC Dispatch Center to report wildfires: 1-800-468-8834. Report emergencies: 911.
- During dry conditions - for forest, grassland, or agricultural burns - it is highly discouraged to burn when the wind exceeds 5 mph. Intense, out-of-control wildfires can happen quickly.
- Avoid throwing cigarettes from vehicles; or from porches or tents at deer camps and campsites.
- Be watchful of machinery and equipment causing sparks and igniting the grass or pasture land.
- While hunting, make sure that any sparks caused by firing a gun are quickly stomped out or put out with water. When vegetation is dry; sparks may create flames quickly.
- Transporting equipment? Make sure you are not dragging chains as you drive. Chains can create sparks, which transfer flames to multiple locations at once. Keep a watchful eye in your rear view mirrors.

